

THE

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the . . .

Urban Sanitary District of

Camborne, ~~X~~

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st,

. . . 1925. . .





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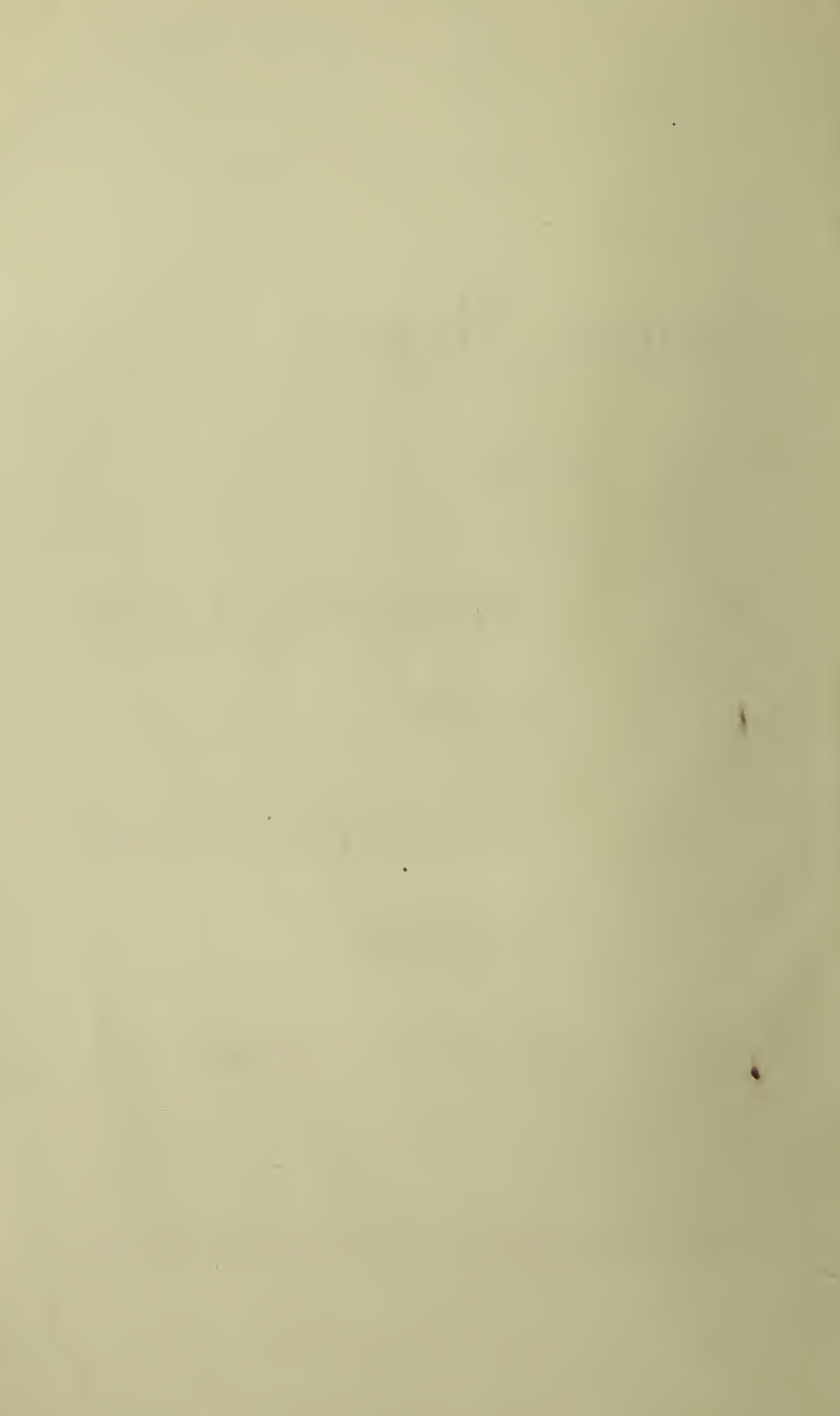
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Urban Sanitary District of

Camborne,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st,

. . . 1925. . .



To the Chairman and Members of the Camborne Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

Acting under instructions from the Minister of Health my Annual Report for the year 1925 which I have the honour to present to you is known as a Survey Report, the last of its kind being that for the year 1920. It is of a more detailed character than those for the intervening years, and whilst reporting on the Sanitary Circumstances, Sanitary Administration, and Vital Statistics of your Area as in those years, it also gives particulars of the Natural and Social Conditions and deals with:—

- (a) The measure of progress made in your Area during the preceding five years in the improvement of the public health ;
- (b) The extent and character of the changes made during that period in the public health services of your Area ;
- (c) Any further action of importance in the organization or development of public health services contemplated* by your Authority, or considered desirable in the immediate future.

I. NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

1. Area.

Your district has an Area of 6,932 acres and an average density of population of 2.1 per acre. It is found that the average number of persons per acre is generally at a maximum in the largest towns, but your district is an exception to this general rule and has a comparatively large population associated with a low acreage density. A large proportion of your district, however, is rural in

character so that the density of population varies considerably in the different localities.

2. Population.

Your district is the most populous area in Cornwall, and at the census of 1921 the population was as follows:—Males, 6,238; Females, 8,340; Total, 14,578.

Of this total there were:—Aged 1-11 years—Males, 1,571; Females, 1,583; Total, 3,154. Aged 12 years and upwards—Males, 4,667; Females, 6,757; Total, 11,424.

The various ages of the population in 1921 were as follows:—

Ages.			Males.	Females.	Total.
0—4	...	...	597	593	1,190
5—9	...	...	700	678	1,378
10—14	...	...	687	731	1,418
15—19	...	...	639	654	1,293
20—24	...	...	487	635	1,122
25—29	...	...	428	635	1,063
30—34	...	...	402	652	1,054
35—39	...	...	395	575	970
40—44	...	...	365	484	849
45—49	...	...	358	576	934
50—54	...	...	357	514	871
55—59	...	...	286	467	753
60—64	...	...	224	320	544
65—69	...	...	156	312	468
70—74	...	...	87	228	315
75—79	...	...	52	169	221
80—84	...	...	14	75	89
85—89	...	...	4	29	33
90—94	...	...	Nil	12	12
95—100	...	...	Nil	1	1
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			6,238	8,340	14,578
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Of this population there were :—

			Males.	Females.
Single	...	...	3,594	4,219
Married	...	...	2,481	2,919
Widowed	...	...	159	1,201
Divorced	...	...	4	1

At the census in 1911 the population was as follows :—

Males, 6,935 ; Females, 8,894 ; Total, 15,829.

It will be seen that there is a **decrease** in population in the ten years of 1,251, or 7.9 per cent.

The estimated population for 1925 is 14,600.

3. Physical Features and General Character of your Area.

Camborne is mainly situated on the side of a hill and varies in elevation from about 50 to 750 feet above sea-level, the highest part being in the neighbourhood of Croft Mitchell.

The fall is chiefly from south-east to north-west, in which direction your district extends to the sea coast at the North Cliffs.

The lowest part of this area lies along the Red River Valley from Reskajeage to Coombe, and from this district the ground gradually rises to nearly 300 feet at the top of the North Cliffs.

The main portion of the town itself is built on a plateau some 400 feet above sea-level, is situated in the centre of the tin-mining area, and is about 12 miles west of Truro.

The soil is loam and the subsoil clay.

The prevailing winds are from the West and South-west. The temperature is mild and fairly equable, and the atmosphere is distinctly humid.

I am greatly indebted to Mr. F. Osborne, of Roskear Council Schools for the following meteorological statistics of your area :—

CAMBORNE TEMPERATURE (Shade) STATISTICS FOR 1925.

Month	Maximum Temperature and date of same	Minimum Temperature and date of same	Mean Temperature per Month
Jan.	54° Fah. on 20th	32° Fah. on 7th	44° Fah.
Feb.	52° " " 4th	30° " " 26th	43° "
Mar.	62° " " 18th	30° " " 22—23rd	45° "
Apr.	72° " " 22nd	31° " " 21st	50° "
May	78° " " 15th	30° " " 8th	51.8° "
June	93° " " 12th	47° " " 3rd	66° "
July	84° " " 14th	50° " " 30th	63.5° "
Aug.	83° " " 18th	50° " " 26th	63.6° "
Sep.	78° " " 17th	42° " " 7th	55.6° "
Oct.	70° " " 5th	33° " " 15th	55° "
Nov.	64° " " 6th	28° " " 15th	43° "
Dec.	54° " " 3rd	28° " " 3—4th	42.1° "

Highest maximum reading for the year was 93° F. on June 12th during the prevailing heat wave.

Mean of maximum readings for the year was 58.9° F.

Lowest minimum reading for the year was 28° F. on November 15th and December 3-4th.

Mean of minimum readings for the year was 44.5° F.

Mean temperature for the year was 51.8° F.

Frost was registered on 41 occasions, viz. :—February, 9 days; March, 10 days; April 1 day; May, 1 day; November, 9 days; December, 11 days; Total, 41 days.

Mean temperature for past five years was 52.2° F., so that 1925 was .4° below the five years' mean.

CAMBORNE. RAINFALL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Month.	Total Rainfall.	Greatest Fall.	Date of Grts Fall.	No. of days .01 ins. to .04 ins.	No. of Days .04 ins. and over.	No. of Days no Rain.
Jan.	3.88 ins	1.10 ins	2nd.	1	16	14
Feb.	6.37 „	1.03 „	12th.	4	21	3
Mar.	.55 „	.10 „	26th.	3	7	21
Apr.	3.55 „	.65 „	28th.	5	13	12
May	4.45 „	.72 „	27th.	3	20	8
June	.02 „	.02 „	2nd.	1	—	29
July	3.44 „	.61 „	22nd.	3	13	15
Aug.	3.52 „	.83 „	6th.	4	10	17
Sep.	2.84 „	.71 „	19th.	3	13	14
Oct.	4.70 „	.79 „	23rd.	1	14	16
Nov.	4.06 „	1.12 „	2nd.	3	10	17
Dec.	5.04 „	.81 „	30th.	4	17	10
Totals	42.42	—	—	35	154	176

Rain fell on 189 days during the year.

Wettest month was February, with 6.37 ins. of rain.

Driest month was June, with .02 ins. night of 1st-2nd.

Greatest fall on one day was 1.12 on November 2nd.

Snow fell on February 22nd and 23rd (slight), also on December 3rd, 4th, 14th, and 15th.

Hail fell on February 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th, and December 16th.

Fogs occurred on March 21st-23rd, May 13th-16th (dense), 26th, September 29th-30th, and October 18th-20th.

Severe thunderstorm on August 6th.

Winds from N to E, 88days; N to W, 94 days; S to E, 64 days; S to W, 119 days.

The average yearly rainfall for the past five years was 41.91 ins., so that 1925 was 0.51 ins. above the last five years' mean.

February, 1923, with 9.21 ins. was the wettest month during the past five years.

4. Number of Inhabited Houses (1921): 3,849.

5. Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1921), 3,896.

On census night there were in your district:—

					Total Rooms.	
Undivided Private Houses used as						
dwellings	...	...	...	3,890	...	18,780
Shops used as dwellings	...	...	...	85	...	609
Others used as dwellings	...	...	...	9	...	56
				<hr/>		<hr/>
				3,984		19,445
Vacant on Census Night	...	...	...	135	...	613
				<hr/>		<hr/>
				3,849		18,832
				<hr/>		<hr/>

In addition to these there were:—80 Shops and 138 other buildings not containing dwellings.

6. Rateable Value.

1925	...	£42,230	1923	...	£47,024
1924	...	£40,300	1922	...	£43,000
		1921	...	£49,313	

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate:— 1925, £138; 1924, £125; 1923, £130; 1922, £125; 1921, £150.

7. Social Conditions and Occupations.

The following Table gives the number of Private Families classified by Size of Family, Rooms Occupied, and Density of Occupation:—

Private Families, classified by size of Family, Rooms Occupied, and Density of Occupation.

Number of Persons in Family.	Number of Private Families occupying the following number of rooms.									Total Private Families.		Popula- tion in Private Families	Rooms Occu- pied.	Average Number of Rooms per person.
	1	2.	3.	4.	5.	6-7	8-9	10 & over	No.	%				
Cols. A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	F.	G.	H.	I.	J.	K.	L.	M.	N.	
1.	6	86	63	80	46	33	5	1	320	8.2	320	1171	3.66	
2.	—	87	130	223	172	162	27	8	809	20.8	1618	3669	2.27	
3.	—	58	132	267	185	194	42	12	890	22.8	2670	4199	1.57	
4.	—	26	78	211	199	190	43	6	753	19.3	3012	3738	1.24	
5.	—	12	45	122	138	124	29	17	487	12.5	2435	2554	1.05	
6.	—	9	27	81	77	79	20	12	305	7.8	1830	1626	0.89	
7.	—	—	15	34	41	52	13	7	162	4.2	1134	903	0.80	
8.	—	1	7	22	31	35	5	2	103	2.6	824	554	0.67	
9.	—	—	—	10	10	13	7	—	40	1.0	360	233	0.65	
10.	—	—	—	—	8	4	—	—	12	0.3	120	64	0.53	
11.	—	—	—	1	2	2	1	—	6	0.2	66	34	0.52	
12.	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	3	0.1	36	17	0.47	
13.	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	3	0.1	39	17	0.44	
14.	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	0.1	28	45	0.61	
15 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	0.0	16	8	0.50	
Total Private Families..	6	279	497	1051	912	892	193	66	3896	100.0	—	—	—	
Population in Private Families ... }	6	660	1579	3782	3659	3666	843	313	—	—	14508	—	—	
Rooms Occupied ...	6	558	1491	4204	4560	5590	1613	810	—	—	—	18832	1.30	

In 1921 the total occupied in your Area was: Males, 3,925, Females 1515, as compared with Males 4,467 and Females 2,052 in 1911.

The total not gainfully occupied and retired in 1921 was: Males 742; Females 5,242. These consist chiefly of children over 12 years of age who have not yet taken up any occupation and of housewives engaged in the performance of domestic duties (not retired and not gainfully occupied).

The chief occupations in 1921 are set out in the following Table:—

Occupation.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Agricultural Occupations	316	26	342
*Mining and Quarrying	812	20	832
†Workers in Chemicals, Paints, etc.	18	204	222
‡Metal Workers	744	11	755
Makers of Textile Goods and Articles			
of Dress	53	160	213
Workers in Wood, etc.	186	—	186
Builders, Bricklayers	174	—	174
Painters and Decorators	41	—	41
Transport Workers	231	25	256
Commercial and Financial Occupations	353	293	646
Public Administration and Defence...	79	12	91
Professional Occupations	196	113	309
§Persons employed in Personal			
Service	79	494	573
Clerks, Typists, etc.	80	99	179
Stationary Engine Drivers	64	—	64
All other Occupations	499	58	557

* Proportion per 1,000 occupied, 158.

† Engaged for the most part in the manufacture of explosives used in mining.

‡ Proportion per 1,000 occupied, 159.

§ Domestic Servants, 357 females. Rate per 1,000 of total population, 24.

There were in 1921 in your district 3,986 children under 15 years of age, viz., Males 1,984 and Females 2,002. Of this number there were :—

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Both parents alive	...	1,701	1,732	3,433
Father dead	...	192	183	375
Mother dead	...	48	47	95
Both dead	...	14	10	24
Not known	...	29	30	59
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		1,984	2,002	3,986
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The population of your district is mainly a working-class one, the chief occupations being Tin Mining and Tin Streaming, Rock Drill manufacturing, Iron Engineering, and Safety Fuse Making, and in this latter industry female labour is mostly engaged.

In my last Survey Report in 1920, I stated that owing to the general depression in trade, the low price of Tin, and the exorbitant cost of coal and other necessary materials, practically none of the tin mines could work at a profit, and this condition of things necessitated the discharge of a number of employees and the temporary suspension of operations at Dolcoath Mine and the closure of Wheal Grenville Mines, the only two mines then working in your district.

At the census in 1921 amongst the occupied males there were only 738 employed in tin mines and mining operations, as compared with 1,643 in 1911, and the majority of the above number were working in mines situated outside your district.

For similar reasons as above stated a number of men were discharged from the engineering works and many women from the safety fuse factories.

In these latter, 204 women residing in your district were employed in 1921, as compared with 382 in 1911. Happily, with the gradual improvement in trade generally, the higher price for Tin, and the lowering of the costs of other materials, there are hopeful signs of recovering activity and the future outlook for your district is more cheerful than for some years past.

8. Vital Statistics.

1. BIRTHS.

			M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	112	92	204
Illegitimate	...	...	7	4	11
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			119	96	215
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

These give a Birth Rate of 14.72 per 1,000, which is the lowest of which I have any record. The Birth Rate for 1924 was 15.32, and the average Birth Rate for the past ten years was 17.93 per 1,000.

The 11 illegitimate births give an Illegitimate Birth Rate of 0.75 per 1,000 and a proportion of 51 per 1,000 births, as compared with a rate of 0.96 per 1,000 and a proportion of 62 per 1,000 births for 1924.

The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1925 was 18.3 per 1,000, as compared with 18.8 for 1924 and 19.7 for 1923.

2. DEATHS.

Males, 80; Females, 108; Total, 188.

These deaths give a Death Rate of 12.87 per 1,000, which is the lowest of which I have any record.

The **corrected** Death Rate for your district, if its population had been identical, as far as age and sex distribution are concerned, with the population of England and Wales is 10.93.

The Death Rate for 1924 was 14.08 per 1,000 and for the past ten years the average Death Rate was 15.92 per 1,000. The Death Rate for England and Wales for 1925 was 12.2 per 1,000, the same as that for 1924; that for 1923 being 11.6 per 1,000.

The principal causes of death in your district are set out in the following Table:—

Causes of Death.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Whooping Cough	2	—	2
Influenza	1	5	6
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	20	8	28
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	2	2	4
Cancer—Malignant Disease ...	7	13	20
Diabetes	1	1	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc. ...	3	7	10
Heart Disease	11	26	37
Arterio-Sclerosis	1	2	3
Bronchitis	5	12	17
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	5	6
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	3	—	3
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	1	3	4
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	2	2	4
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.		
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ...	—	1	1
Congenital Debility and Malforma- tion, Premature Birth	5	2	7
Suicide	—	—	—
Other Deaths from Violence ...	3	1	4
Other Defined Diseases	12	18	30
	<hr/> 80	<hr/> 108	<hr/> 188

The various ages at death were as follows:—

Under 1 year	...	...	...	19
Between 1 and 5	...	...	...	2
„ 5 and 15	...	...	...	2
„ 15 and 25	...	...	...	4
„ 25 and 35	...	...	...	5
„ 35 and 45	...	...	...	14
„ 45 and 55	...	...	...	18
„ 55 and 65	...	...	...	35
„ 65 and 75	...	...	...	36
„ 75 and 85	...	...	...	37
„ 85 and 95	...	...	...	13
„ 95 and 100	...	...	...	3
				<hr/>
				188
				<hr/>

3. NATURAL INCREASE.

The Natural Increase of Population is 27, as compared with 18 for 1924 and 8 for 1923.

4. INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The deaths of 19 infants under one year of age were registered during the year, being 13 males and 6 females. Of these, one was illegitimate; a male.

These returns give an Infantile Mortality Rate of 88 per 1,000 births, as compared with a rate of 44 for 1924, which was the lowest of which I have any record.

The average rate for the past ten years was 86 per 1,000 births as shown in the following Table:—

Year.	Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births.	
1916	...	118
1917	...	67
1918	...	121
1919	...	80
1920	...	67
1921	...	105
1922	...	126
1923	...	48
1924	...	44
1925	...	88

The Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales for 1925 was 75 per 1,000 births, the same as that for 1924.

The various ages at death in your district were as follows :—

Under 1 day	...	4
Under 1 week	...	5
Under 1 month	...	1
At 2 months	...	1
At 3 months	...	2
At 4 months	...	2
At 6 months	...	1
At 7 months	...	1
At 8 months	...	2

The causes of death were as follows :—

Prematurity	...	5
Convulsions	...	5
Broncho-Pneumonia	...	2
Bronchitis	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	2
Asphyxia	...	1
Atelectasis	...	1
Jaundice (?)	...	1

5. ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.

The two deaths from Whooping Cough give a Death Rate from Zymotic Diseases of 0.13 per 1,000.

6. INQUEST CASES.

There were 7 inquest cases in your district during the year, as compared with 12 for 1924 and 8 for 1923. Five deaths of the above were due to natural causes and the other two were the result of accidents.

There were also two inquest cases on persons who died outside your district, but who resided in your district, and in both cases death was due to accidents.

9. Poor Law Relief.

The amount expended in money and kind in your district during 1925 was £11,211 11s. 9d. For the previous years the amounts were as follows:—

1924	...	£8,929	5	3
1923	...	£17,502	10	7
1922	...	£16,179	16	8
1921	...	£6,981	7	9
1920	...	£4,023	3	10

10. Gratuitous Medical Relief.

There are no hospitals or dispensaries in your area affording gratuitous medical relief but such is provided in necessitous cases by the Poor Law Medical Service.

11. There have been no causes of sickness or invalidity specially noteworthy in your area during the period under review nor have any conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health been brought to my notice or called for comment.

II. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. Hospitals provided or subsidized by the Local Authority or by the County Council.

1. TUBERCULOSIS.

There is a Tuberculosis Hospital at Tehidy in the adjoining Rural District of Redruth. This is administered by the County Council and is available for your area.

2. MATERNITY.

The County Council have made an agreement with the Committee of the West Cornwall Hospital in the Redruth Urban Area for the provision there of a Maternity Ward with five beds, an impending ward with two beds, a labour ward with one bed, and an infectious ward with one bed (only for cases which have become infectious after admission), together with the necessary ward-kitchen, and other offices. These beds are available for patients from any part of the county, preference being given to certain specified cases.

The medical staff of the Hospital have arranged to provide the necessary treatment without payment. Patients may be required to contribute towards their maintenance according to their means. These wards were opened on March 8th last.

3. CHILDREN.

There is a children's ward at the West Cornwall Hospital, Redruth, which is available for your area.

4. FEVER.

The Fever Hospital in your district is situated at the back of College Street, and is supported wholly by your Council. It is a converted detached private house standing in its own grounds of about two acres, and lies well away from any other houses. It contains at present eight beds in three wards, and there is another large ward which can accommodate four beds and which would be immediately available in case of necessity.

Unfortunately your district labours under the great disadvantage in that at this hospital only one infectious disease can be treated at one and the same time. In my Annual Reports for 1923 and 1924 I stated that your Sanitary and Hospital Committees had jointly under consideration the advisability of providing additional blocks so as to remedy this defect. No report on the matter has as yet been presented to your Council, but I trust the consideration of this important matter may not be shelved indefinitely, but that at an early date some definite scheme will be presented for your consideration.

The question of providing a joint Fever Hospital for your district and two or more adjoining ones has been mooted from time to time but no definite scheme has been presented to you for your approval or otherwise. The probability of something being done on these lines in the near future accounts partly for no action being taken by your Committees towards enlarging your own Hospital.

5. SMALL POX.

You have no special hospital for the treatment of this disease, nor is there such a one in the near neighbourhood. Your Sanitary Committee have under consideration the provision of a temporary building at some isolated site, but no definite decision on the matter has as yet been arrived at.

6. OTHER.

The West Cornwall Hospital in the Redruth Urban Area is available for the treatment of medical and surgical cases from your district. There are at present 30 beds open, viz., 10 for men, 12 for women, and four for children in addition to the Maternity Ward. There are also private wards containing four beds.

2. There is no Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants, and Homeless Children in your Area. The Poor-law Infirmary is situated in the adjoining Rural District of Redruth.

3. Ambulance Facilities.

(a) For Infectious Cases.

There is a horse ambulance kept at the Fever Hospital and used for the conveyance of infectious cases. It is used solely for this purpose.

There is also at the same hospital a special van for the conveyance of infected bedding to the Steam disinfecter at West Tolgus.

(b) For Non-infectious and Accident Cases.

There is a motor ambulance, the property of the local division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, available for these cases.

4. Clinics and Treatment Centres.

(a) **Maternity and Child Welfare Centres (Consultation and Treatment).**—The County Council is the Local Authority for administering Maternity and Child Welfare schemes. There is a Voluntary Infant Welfare Centre in your district open once weekly at the Church-room in Trelo-warren Street. It is affiliated to the National League of

Health (Maternity and Child Welfare) and also to the Cornwall Nursing Association, and is under the Ministry of Health. Your Council has no official connection with this centre, but I am again much indebted to the Honorary Secretary, Mrs. Hooper, for the following particulars:—

- (1) The Medical Officer attends weekly and the Dental Surgeon monthly for consultations.
- (2) Health Lectures are given by qualified experts fortnightly.
- (3) An expectant mothers' class is held on alternate weeks when any advice or help needed is given.

There has been an average attendance weekly of about 48 mothers and children.

(b) **Day Nurseries.**—There are none such either in your district or the immediate neighbourhood.

(c) **School Clinics.**—The duties of the medical inspection of the children attending the Public Elementary and Secondary Schools are carried out by whole-time Medical Officers appointed by the County Council. They act under the direction of the County Medical Officer of Health.

(d) **Tuberculosis Dispensary.**—There is a Tuberculosis Dispensary at Penlu Terrace, Tuckingmill, which is in your district. A medical officer attends once a week for consultation. It is administered by the County Council.

(e) **Treatment Centre for Venereal Diseases.**—A Venereal Clinic is held weekly at the Tuberculosis Dispensary at Tuckingmill. This is also administered by the County Council.

5. **Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.**

- (a) One part-time Medical Officer of Health.

(b) One whole-time Sanitary Inspector, who also acts as Inspector under the Housing Acts and the Public Health (Meat) Regulations of 1924. He is also responsible for the supervision of the Sewers and the Scavenging of the district (other than road scavenging). He holds the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Meat and other Foods, and also holds certificates in Building Construction. One half of the salaries of the above-named officers is contributed by the Ministry of Health under the Public Health Acts.

(c) One whole-time Clerical Assistant to the Sanitary Inspector.

No Health Visitors or special nurses are employed by your Authority.

6. Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) **General.**—The general nursing in the home is undertaken by the Camborne and Treslothan Nursing Associations. They are both affiliated to the County Nursing Association and receive grants from the County Council through this Association in connection with Infant Welfare and School Inspections and also a small grant from the Redruth Board of Guardians, but they obtain no financial aid from your Authority. Apart from the above grants, they are supported entirely by voluntary contributions and their nurses only attend the families of those who thus subscribe or those who are in receipt of Poor-law Relief. Two nurses are employed in Camborne and are available for the whole area with the exception of Treslothan Ecclesiastical District which has a nurse of its own. This nurse resides at Troon and she also undertakes the duties of a midwife in addition to general nursing.

(b) **For Infectious Diseases.**—With the exception of cases of Enteric Fever, the nurses above mentioned do not undertake the nursing of infectious diseases.

In the event of a severe epidemic the services of an emergency nurse or nurses can be obtained from the County Council on application being made to the County Medical Officer of Health and subject to his approval. No such services have been required for the past five years.

7. Midwives.

Practising midwives in your area are not employed or subsidized by your Authority.

There are at present six midwives practising in your district, two privately, and four in connection with the Nursing Associations previously referred to, though two of these latter only act as such in cases of emergency or when the regular midwives are on holiday.

The County Council is the supervising Authority under the Midwives Acts of 1902 and 1918.

8. Chemical Work.

Apart from the periodical chemical and bacteriological analyses of drinking water, details of which are referred to later in this Report under Section III, sub-section I, no arrangements for chemical work have been in force in your area during the period under review.

No Public Analyst is employed by your Authority.

9. Legislation in Force.

(1) **Local Acts and Special Local Orders.**—There are no Local Acts or Special Local Orders relating to the Public Health in force in your area.

(2) **Adoptive Acts.**—The following Acts have been adopted and are in force in your area :—

- (a) The Infectious Diseases Prevention Act of 1890 (adopted in 1901) ;

- (b) The Public Health Acts Amendment Act of 1890 ;
- (c) The Private Street Works Act of 1892 ;
- (d) The following portions of the Public Health Acts Amendment Acts of 1907 :—

PART 2 (Streets and Buildings) other than Section 23, with additions to Sections 25, 27, and 30.

PART 3 (Sanitary Provisions), Sections 34—38 inclusive, and Sections 43—51 inclusive, with additions to Sections 35 and 38.

PART 4 (Infectious Diseases) other than Section 66, with additions to section 59.

PART 5 (Common Lodging Houses) with additions to Section 75.

PART 6 (Recreation Grounds).

PART 10 (Miscellaneous Provisions) Sections 92, 93, and 95, with additions to Section 92.

These were adopted in 1923.

(3) **Byelaws.**—The following Byelaws are now in force in your area :—

New Streets and Buildings.

Hackney Carriages.

Nuisances.

Removal of House Refuse.

Cleansing of Footways and Pavements and the cleansing of Earth Closets, Privies, Ashpits, and Cesspools.

Offensive Trades.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, and similar Structures.

Common Lodging Houses.

Houses let in Lodgings.

Slaughter Houses.

Pleasure Grounds.

These Byelaws were approved by the Ministry of Health on September 12th, 1924.

(4) **Regulations.**—The regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order of 1885, made in 1886, were revised by your Council in November, 1923, and came into force on January 1st, 1924.

10. There are no important points in which the work of your Authority is related to or is administered in co-operation with the medical and ancillary services of National Health Insurance, or of the voluntary hospitals or of the Poor Law or of other agencies to which I can usefully draw your attention.

III. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Water.

The town proper, together with Tuckingmill and the villages of Beacon, Treswithian, Kehelland, and part of Pengegon, are supplied with water by the Camborne Water Company, which was formed in 1867.

In your area 3,041 dwelling-houses are supplied directly from this source, representing roughly about 12,000 people, or nearly four-fifths of the population. Portions of the adjoining parishes of Crowan and Illogan in the Helston and Redruth Rural Areas respectively also obtain water from the same company.

There are no standpipes in your area.

The supply of water comes from two separate sources at Cargenwyn and Boswyn and the watersheds of the whole of the former and a part of the latter are situated in the parish of Crowan in the Rural District of Helston.

The water is derived entirely from springs and is all filtered before delivery, a Candy filter being used at Boswyn and sand filters at Cargenwyn. During the period under review the supply has been constant.

At Cargenwyn there are three reservoirs, the total storage capacity being about 34 million gallons. At Boswyn there is one reservoir and also one storage tank, the total storage capacity being about seven million gallons.

In addition to the above there is a ferro-concrete town service reservoir of one million gallons capacity at Kittys Lane.

There has been no increase in the storage capacities at either source since my last Survey Report in 1920. The two supplies from Cargenwyn and Boswyn are piped separately to Boteto Bridge at the south-eastern boundary of your area and from there they join into one main which carries the supply to your district and that of Illogan.

All surface and bye-wash waters are excluded from the reservoirs and chemical and bacteriological analyses undertaken either by your Authority or the Water Company at frequent intervals show the water to be of very good quality, free from any evidence of pollution with sewage or animal excreta and in every way suitable for drinking purposes.

The water is very soft and so liable to plumbo-solvent action but the use of lead pipes is forbidden by the Water Company. I have no knowledge of any contamination of the water by lead nor have any cases of lead poisoning been brought to my notice during the period under review.

The following are the latest analyses of drinking water supplied by the Camborne Water Company and reported on by the Clinical Research Association:—

1. TAP WATER AT CHURCH VIEW, TUCKINGMILL,
(received on 14th January, 1925). RESULTS.

(1) **Chemical.**

			Parts per 100,000.	Grains per Gallon.
Total Solids (dried at 120° C)	...		9.00	6.30
Combined Chlorine	...	...	2.40	1.68
Equivalent to NaCl	...	...	4.00	2.77
Nitric Nitrogen	...	...	0.18	0.13
Nitrous Nitrogen	...	...	—	—
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	0.0003	0.0002
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	0.0031	0.0022
Oxygen absorbed in four hours at 27° C	...	...	0.022	0.015
Lead or Copper	...	...	—	—
Temporary Hardness (equivalent to CaCO ₃)	...	...	0.7	0.5
Permanent Hardness	...	...	2.3	1.6
Total Hardness	...	...	3.0	2.1

(2) **Bacteriological** (Cultural and Microscopical).

Average number of organisms pro- ducing visible colonies on gelatine plates, incubated at 20-22° C for three days	...	36 per cc.
Average number of organisms pro- ducing visible colonies on agar plates, incubated at 37.5° C for two days	...	11 per cc.
Bacillus Coli	...	Not found in 100 cc.
Streptococci	...	Not found in 30 cc.
Bacillus Entereditis Sporogenes	...	Not found in 100 cc.

Remarks.—Both the Chemical and Bacteriological results show this water to be of a very satisfactory degree of purity.

2. TAP WATER AT KEHELLAND (received on 24th June, 1925). RESULTS.

(1) Chemical.

			Parts per 100,000.	Grains per Gallon.
Total Solids (dried at 120° C)	...		8.00	5.60
Combined Chlorine	...	...	2.30	1.61
Equivalent to NaCl	...	...	3.80	2.66
Nitric Nitrogen	...	...	0.10	0.07
Nitrous Nitrogen	...	...	Traces	
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	0.0060	0.0042
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	0.0016	0.0011
Oxygen absorbed in four hours at 27° C	...	...	0.021	0.014
Lead or Copper	...	...	—	—
Temporary Hardness (equivalent to CaCO ₃)	...	...	1.2	0.9
Permanent Hardness	...	...	1.6	1.1
Total Hardness	...	...	2.8	2.0

(2) Bacteriological (Cultural and Microscopical).

Average number of organisms producing visible colonies on gelatine plates, incubated at 20-22° C for three days ... 17 per cc.

Average number of organisms producing visible colonies on agar plates, incubated at 37.5° C for two days ... 4 per cc.

Bacillus Coli ... Not found in 100 cc.

Streptococci ... Not found in 30 cc.

Bacillus Enteriditis Sporogenes ... Not found in 100 cc.

Remarks.—These results show that this water is of a very satisfactory degree of purity.

The village of Troon and the adjoining hamlet of Croft Common are provided with an abundant and constant free supply of drinking water of excellent quality from a deep adit, but it is not supplied directly to the houses.

Croft Mitchell, Bolenowe, Roscroggan, Rosewarne Downs, and part of Pengegon are supplied with water from deep wells and the villages of Baripper and Penponds are also supplied with water from deep wells and adits, the latter being piped for a short distance into "shoots." Both these latter villages could easily be supplied with water from the Camborne Water Company, but this would necessitate the laying of a new main either from Ramsgate or Gear Farm to the Penponds Council School and from these, two branch mains; the one to Baripper and the other to Penponds. Or alternately, a main from Ramsgate to Baripper and one from the Vicarage at Penponds to the rest of the village.

These villages contain mainly working-class dwellings and there is no kind of industry which would take a large volume of water to compensate somewhat for the expense involved. The Water Company have not considered any definite scheme nor have they been directly approached by your Council on the matter, but the question is one which should be enquired into by your Sanitary Committee.

The village of Condurrow is supplied with water from shallow wells and in many cases the houses are at a considerable distance from such wells. This village is urgently in need of a better water supply. The main from the Water Company's supply at Condurrow Road, Beacon, could easily be extended to this village and water laid on directly to each of the houses in that area or failing this, two standpipes could be fixed, say one near the Primitive Chapel and the other near the Wesleyan Chapel, if it were found that the expenses involved in the former procedure are likely to be prohibitive. These two stand-

pipes would supply both Higher and Lower Condurrow, and the other houses in the immediate vicinity and an extension to Wheal Harriett could be made at the same time, for this place also urgently needs a better water supply.

Your Sanitary Committee are at present investigating this matter and will present some definite scheme for your approval shortly.

The remaining part of Pengegon should also be provided with water from the Water Company's mains which are already laid as far as the old laundry. The recent extensions of the sewers in this village and the linking up of the houses thereto make this extension more necessary than ever.

The "shoots" at Stennack and Brea have recently been repaired and put in order.

2. Rivers and Streams.

The stream at Baripper is still being polluted by the direct discharge of sewage from the settling tank at the outfall, there being no method of filtration and nothing has been done to remedy this since my last Survey Report. It is most necessary that steps should be taken to check this nuisance, and some form of filtration carried out so as to render the effluent suitable for discharge into the stream.

On completion of the main drainage scheme the settling tanks at Troon, Tuckingmill, College Street, and Rosewarne will no longer exist, and the pollution of the streams adjacent will be done away with.

There are no rivers in your district.

3. Drainage and Sewerage.

I am pleased to be able to report that the Sewage Disposal scheme which had been before your Council since

1906, and which was finally adopted by you in October, 1924, was officially approved by the Ministry of Health in March, 1925, after a public enquiry held by them in the previous November. This scheme includes the extension of the sewerage to the chief parts of your district not yet connected, the linking up of the sewage outfalls at Rosewarne, College Street, Tuckingmill, and Troon, and the conveyance of the whole of the sewage to the North Cliffs and its discharge there into the sea.

Work was commenced in March, 1925, and is proceeding satisfactorily and at the end of the year under review $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles of sewer pipes have been laid, more than half of the tunnel driven, and the outfall at Troon has been linked up.

When the scheme is completed there will be $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles of piped sewers and a tunnel through the cliffs two-thirds of a mile in length. The size of this tunnel is 7 feet x 5 feet in the clear, through which an oval sewer will run. The sewage outfall at Baripper could not be included in the above scheme owing to the position and levels of the sewers, and your Engineer has recommended that the sewage there should be treated separately on modern lines. I have already in the previous sub-section drawn your attention to the nuisance existing at this outfall and recommended the remedying of the same by some modern method of filtration.

The group of houses at Croft Common are not yet drained, and these could easily be linked up with the Troon sewage.

The following villages have at present no system of drainage and could not be included in the main scheme owing to their position and levels, viz., Penponds, Kehelland, Condurrow, and Bolenowe.

Your Council should seriously consider some scheme for the drainage of Penponds, which village is urgently in

need of this improvement, particularly as the majority of the houses there have not sufficient ground attached for the provision of cesspools at the distance required by your Byelaws.

The conditions at the other villages mentioned do not call for such urgent action, the houses being more isolated and having more ground attached, and they could easily be drained by cesspools as a temporary measure until such time as your district is in a more satisfactory financial position.

4. Closet Accommodation.

Since my last Survey Report in 1920 a definite policy has been proceeded with, with a view to the ultimate abolition of the insanitary types of privy accommodation which still remain in the more populous and closely-built centres of your area, and with a view to that end your Council defined an area as laid down in your Byelaws dealing with the cleansing of earth closets, privies, and cesspools, in which area the responsibility of cleansing such earth closets, privies, and cesspools is thrown on the occupier. This decision has had a tendency towards the more rapid conversion of privies into water closets in this area. As many as 511 privies have been converted into water closets since 1920, and of this number 84 have been provided during the past year. These conversions are being steadily proceeded with at the cost of the owners and it is hoped that within a comparatively short period the insanitary closets on the conservancy system will be entirely done away with in the drained area.

Unfortunately, at Troon, which is a part of the drained area, owing to the want of a direct supply of water to the houses the enforcement of water closets cannot be insisted on. Though in a few instances hand-flushed closets have been provided, yet this procedure is not one to be recommended on sanitary grounds owing to insufficient

flushing. It is hoped that the consideration of providing a direct supply of water to the village will engage your attention at an early date. There is an ample supply of such water available and in my opinion it would be advisable for your Council to consult a water engineer on this question with a view to carrying out this much-needed improvement.

At the end of 1925 there were approximately 2,210 water closets, 62 pail closets, and 1,551 privies in your area, as compared with 1,699 water closets, 48 pail closets, and 2,060 privies in 1920.

In the parts of your area where no system of drainage obtains pail closets are being substituted for privies, these being emptied weekly by the Council's carts. This conversion is being gradually carried out throughout the district with a view to ultimately doing away with such privies which at their best are bound to be insanitary.

5. Scavenging.

Two contractors with one man each and two carts are constantly employed in removing household refuse from premises that are supplied with water closets. This is done in each case weekly. Two other carts are employed in emptying middens daily outside the town area except that on one day a week each cart is employed in emptying moveable ash-bins and pail closets. They are also used when cesspools require cleaning out.

Since 1920 approximately in 520 houses moveable ash-bins have been substituted for fixed receptacles. Unfortunately, the majority of the former are not provided with proper coverings, and in many instances there are no coverings at all. Such ash-bins are bound to give off offensive odours, particularly in the summer months owing to the decomposition of animal and vegetable matter, and are therefore most insanitary. In addition, they are

favourite haunts for flies which can so readily carry infection from them to food stored in the houses or exposed in the shops for sale. For these reasons, and to minimise the danger to the public health, proper galvanised iron dust-bins with suitable covers should be insisted on and steps should be taken by your Council to carry this into effect. The provision of such dust-bins in the case of all new dwelling-houses is made compulsory under your Byelaws. Householders should also have their attention drawn to the advisability of burning all combustible refuse instead of depositing it in the receptacles or privy pits or throwing it on to their gardens as seems the custom in the majority of cases.

Efforts should also be made by all householders to destroy rats, mice, flies and cockroaches, and particularly the former. It is well known that many diseases are conveyed by rats to human beings and energetic measures should be taken to exterminate them. Refuse heaps are favourite breeding grounds, and incineration of all forms of refuse should be made compulsory.

6. Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The Sanitary Inspector, under Article 19/12 of the Sanitary Officers Order of 1922, reports as follows:—

Number of premises inspected	...	...	1,239
Number of premises re-inspected	...	...	902
Preliminary notices served	...	...	109
Letters written	...	...	308
Notices complied with	...	...	79
Notices partly complied with on December			
31st, 1925	...	...	30
Statutory notices served	...	...	28
Statutory notices complied with	...	...	4
Work in hand	...	...	12
Work not started	...	...	12

Water supply improved	...	...	...	6
Water closets provided	...	...	...	84
Drains provided to premises	...	...	...	44
Drains repaired	...	...	...	56
Privies converted to pail closets	...	...	...	7
Eaves gutters repaired or provided	...	...	...	31
Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	34
Bedding removed for disinfection	...	...	...	4
Movable receptacles provided for refuse	...	...	...	84
Loads of refuse removed	...	...	...	6,559

7. Smoke Abatement.

No complaints have been received as to the escape of smoke during the past year, nor does there seem to be any definite nuisance arising from this cause in any of the industrial undertakings in your area.

I would call your attention to the pernicious and dangerous habit so common in this district of householders deliberately catching fire to the chimney flues in order to clean them instead of having them properly swept.

8. Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Byelaws or Regulations.

(1) **Common Lodging Houses.**—There is only one such in your area situated in Vyvyan Street. This is a modern building and has accommodation for 44 men, but none for women. It has been frequently inspected during the year and the Byelaws relating thereto are being complied with. No case of infectious disease has occurred there during the period under review.

There has been no need for regulations in respect of underground sleeping rooms under sect. 18 (1) of the Housing Act of 1925 as there are none such in your area.

(2) **Offensive Trades.**—There are three offensive trades carried on in your area as follows :—

- (a) Tallow melting at Stray Park.
- (b) Hide and skin market at North Road Quarry (fellmongers).
- (c) Gut-scraping at Wheal Seton.

No complaints have been received as to any nuisances at either of these places during the year.

9. Other Sanitary Conditions requiring Notice.

(1) **Public Lavatories.**—I am pleased to be able to report that a ladies lavatory has been provided at the Recreation Ground and also an adequate supply of water laid on to the men's lavatory at the same place. I called your attention in my report for 1920 to the need of more public urinals and lavatory accommodation for both sexes in your district and this matter has been under your consideration spasmodically since then. Definite action was taken in December last when your Sanitary Committee recommended your Council to invite tenders for the erection of a public lavatory for both sexes in Gurney's Lane and the enlargement of the men's urinal in Market Lane by the erection of water closets. This recommendation was adopted by your Council and sanction for a loan to cover the expenses to be incurred applied for and obtained.

Your Sanitary Committee have under consideration the provision of a public urinal at Troon and such accommodation is also necessary at Beacon and Tuckingmill.

(2) **Accommodation Lanes.**—The condition of these lanes has much improved during the last two or three years owing to the extensions of the sewers and the gradual abolition of the privies.

10. Schools.

There are eight public elementary schools and one secondary school for girls in your area and these have been frequently inspected during the year, particularly the former.

At Basset Road Elementary School the conditions of the water closets are not satisfactory and the attention of the Education Authority was drawn to this matter in September last, and also on previous occasions, but so far without any definite action being taken.

At Troon Elementary School the insanitary condition of the boy's urinal was reported to the Education Authority and I am pleased to state that this has at last been improved. The attention of the Education Authority should again be called to the want of a proper supply of drinking water at Penponds Elementary School, to which I have referred on many previous occasions. This is a matter which should receive their urgent attention.

With these exceptions the sanitary conditions of the schools are found to be satisfactory.

IV. HOUSING.

1. General Housing Conditions in the Area.

(1) **General Housing Conditions.**—In many instances these conditions are most unsatisfactory, particularly as regards those houses held on the life-tenure system, and especially when only one old life remains on the property. Many of these cottages are old and badly in need of repair, but the cost of repairs are high and the rentals low and therefore there is no chance of a reasonable return for expenditure. Often such cottages are owned by people of comparatively poor means and they cannot afford the necessary outlay to put them in a satisfactory sanitary condition.

(2) (a) **Extent of Shortage or Excess of Houses.** There is undoubtedly a great shortage of working-class dwellings and at least 100 are needed to remedy this evil.

(b) **Measures taken or contemplated to meet any Shortage.**—Up to the end of 1925 nothing had been done by your Council or private enterprise to meet the shortage complained of, with the exception that six cottages are now in course of erection by private individuals. I am pleased to be able to report that you have at last decided to formulate a scheme under the Housing Acts of 1925 in order to afford financial assistance to private individuals who are prepared to erect suitable houses and you are also considering the question of the erection of such houses by your Authority under the special facilities provided by those Acts.

(3) **Information as to any important changes in the population during the period under review or anticipated in the future.**—There has been a decrease in the population in the ten years (1911-21) of 1,251, or 7.9 per cent., but at present the population is fairly stationary, and with the anticipated revival in the mining industry in your district such population is likely to increase.

2. Overcrowding.

(1) **Extent.**—Overcrowding still undoubtedly exists, but not to a greater extent than in previous years. Unfortunately instances frequently occur in which adults of opposite sexes have to use the same sleeping room.

(2) **Causes.**—One common cause is the frequent crowding of large families into small houses owing to the preponderance of houses with only one or two bedrooms. In many instances those requiring larger houses are unable to pay the high rental asked for and even if they are able to do so those with large families are not welcomed.

Several dilapidated houses have been pulled down and other houses converted into business premises, and no new houses have been built to take their place.

(3) **Measures taken or contemplated for dealing with overcrowding.**—Though during the period under review no definite measures have been taken by your Council to remedy the overcrowding, yet you are now contemplating taking action under the Housing Acts of 1925 as previously mentioned.

(4) **Principal cases of overcrowding during the year 1925, and action taken.**—Four cases were definitely dealt with. In one case there were nine persons living in one house of two rooms and only one bedroom. In another case there was overcrowding of the sexes and in the other two cases the overcrowding was due to two families attempting to live in one case in a back to back house of two rooms and in the other in a small three-roomed house. With the exception of the first-mentioned case, matters have been satisfactorily dealt with and in that case, though many attempts have been made to find a suitable house this has been next to impossible owing to such a large family and at the end of 1925 this nuisance still existed.

3. Fitness of Houses.

(1) (a) **General Standard of Housing in the Area.**—The general standard of housing is not of a high order though conditions are somewhat improving.

(b) **General character of the defects found to exist in unfit houses.**—Not only are many such houses damp, due to an absence of damp-proof courses and want of efficient eaves-guttering and down-spouts, but the conditions of the back kitchens and adjoining yards are such as to occasion distinct menace to health.

(c) **How far defects are due to the lack of proper management and supervision by owners or to acts of waste or neglect by tenants.**—There is great want of supervision on the part of owners, particularly of small property, and great reluctance on their part to do what is absolutely necessary to make such houses habitable and reasonably comfortable for the unfortunate tenants and the only occasions on which they seem to visit such property is when notice is called to certain defects by the Sanitary Authority and even then they often wait to repair such defects until served with Statutory Notices or threatened with legal proceedings.

(2) General Action taken as regards unfit houses under:—

(a) **The Public Health Acts.**—Under these Acts Preliminary Notices were served in 109 cases and Statutory Notices in 28 and two houses were closed as unfit for human habitation. The above notices had mainly to do with defects of drainage, the substitution of water closets for privies, and external and internal repairs.

(b) **The Housing Acts.**—No action has been taken under these Acts.

(3) **Difficulties in remedying unfitness, etc.**—The difficulties met with generally in remedying unfitness are increased by the lack of empty houses suitable for the working classes. Many houses should be temporarily closed for extensive repairs that are badly needed and others should be permanently closed as unfit for human habitation, but the want of other houses into which the tenants could move precludes your Council from taking decided or drastic action. The same reasons apply to back-to-back houses which cannot be remedied until other accommodation is provided.

Special steps were taken by your Council in the early part of last year to extend the sewer for the drainage of five cottages at Factory Row, Tuckingmill, at the request of the owners. This was carried out and the five cottages provided with water closets and new drainage and renovated throughout.

(4) The conditions as far as they effect housing as regards water supply, closet accommodation and refuse disposal.—As regards water supply there is nothing further to state beyond what has been mentioned previously in this report.

As regards the other conditions, the extensions of the sewers to those parts of your area not previously drained will enable your Council to insist on the substitution of water closets for privies.

4. Unhealthy Areas.

There are no parts of your district which could be definitely classed as unhealthy areas.

5. Byelaws relating to Houses, to Houses let in Lodgings, etc.—Your new Byelaws which were sanctioned by the Ministry of Health in 1924 are working satisfactorily.

6. General and Miscellaneous.

No special action has been taken by your Council other than that already specified. Recommendations as to the disposal of house refuse by burning have been mentioned in a previous part of this report.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

- (a) Total (including numbers given separately
under (b)) 7

- (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :
 (i) By the Local Authority —
 (ii) By other bodies or persons —

1. Unfit dwelling-houses.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	425
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	30
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	107

2. Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	—
--	---

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs —
 (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

- | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (a) By owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close —

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 109
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—
- | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (a), By owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | 129 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |

C.—Proceedings under sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders —
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made —
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit —
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made —
- (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders —

V. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. Milk Supply.

As regards the wholesomeness of the milk produced within or brought into your area it is difficult to determine with certainty that such milk is either pure or free from tubercle.

In the first place a considerable quantity of milk is retailed in your district and produced outside and at present you have no jurisdiction over those farms from which the milk is produced which happen to lie outside of your area and consequently you have no firsthand knowledge of the conditions obtaining at such places.

As regards those within your area, the conditions under which the cows are milked have greatly improved in recent years and the producers are paying much more attention to this important matter. Particular attention has been paid to the drainage, the provision of impervious floors, and more adequate ventilation in the cowsheds, and the majority of producers are much more alive to the paramount importance of a wholesome and clean milk supply than in former years.

The producers and retailers of milk should realise the vital importance of concentrating on a pure and tubercle free milk and with that end in view much greater attention should be paid to the keeping of only such milch cows as are known to be free from tubercle, the thorough cleansing of the udders, teats and hindquarters of the cows before milking and the ensuring that the hands of the milkers are thoroughly washed and scrubbed before such milking is done. The vessels used should also be scrupulously cleaned and sterilised before use. Circulars calling attention to all these matters and other details connected with a pure milk supply have been issued to all concerned.

In my last Annual Report I referred to two dairies which were supplying milk in sealed bottles, and this number has not yet been increased. Though this is a step in the right direction, yet it is useless unless the milk is produced under absolutely hygienic conditions from healthy cows and the milk cooled before bottling. The bottles should be thoroughly sterilised before use and preferably filled and adequately sealed at the farms where the milk is produced, so reducing to a minimum the risk of contamination.

One of the dairymen in your district was highly commended at the recent Clean Milk Competition for the County, and another producer and retailer has fitted up his cowsheds and dairy on the most approved principles with a view to obtaining a licence for the selling of graded milk. The supply of milk for your area is adequate.

There are at present on your Register:—

Producers and wholesalers ...	24
Producers and retailers ...	50
Retailers	24

One hundred and twenty-three Inspections and Re-inspections have been made during the year under the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders.

(1) No samples of milk have been taken and analysed to determine the presence or absence of tubercle, nor has there been any veterinary inspection of the cows by your Authority. Three cows have been slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order of 1925.

Your Council should seriously consider the question of arranging for the periodical veterinary inspection of all milch cows in your area and the frequent taking and analyses of samples of milk to ensure that such milk is

clean and free from tubercle. The costs incurred should not be prohibitive and would be well repaid by helping to ensure that consumers are supplied with clean and pure milk.

(2) No licences have at present been granted under special designations classified as in the Fourth Schedule to the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923.

There is no pasteurisation of milk carried out in your area.

(3) There has been no refusal or revocation of registration of any retailers in your area nor has any licence been yet applied for for the selling of graded milk.

(4) There has been no official bacteriological examination of samples of graded or other milk.

2. Meat.

(1) **Meat Inspection.**—Since April 1st, 1925, when the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, came into force the following inspections of carcasses immediately after slaughter have been made :—

Bullocks	...	...	...	372
Pigs	...	...	...	509
Calves, sheep and lambs	...			34

Arrangements have been made with the Camborne Gas Company for incineration of condemned meat, and during the period under review parts of carcasses of 36 animals have been condemned and so disposed of, amounting approximately to 5 cwt. No arrangements have been made for the marking of carcasses inspected and found fit for human consumption.

(2) With reference to the Administration of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, the provisions laid down in Parts IV and V relating to shops and stores are being carried out in a satisfactory manner. There are no fixed stalls in your area, but unfortunately there are an increasing number of travelling stalls, both motor driven and horse drawn and though the provisions of the regulations relating to these are carried out in a fairly satisfactory manner, yet under existing conditions it is difficult to avoid contamination of the meat exposed for sale. The common practice of cutting up and selling meat in the highway cannot be recommended as the meat is liable during such exposure to be contaminated with dust from the roads and passing vehicles. In the majority of instances these stalls offer meat for sale from animals which are slaughtered outside of your area and there is therefore no adequate inspection of the meat as regards your Authority.

In my opinion no meat intended for human consumption should be sold in your area until it has been inspected and passed as fit by your Meat Inspector. This cannot be efficiently done until there is established a central clearing house through which all such meat must pass.

(3) There is no public slaughter-house in your area, and though the provisions laid down in the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, which prevent an animal being slaughtered for human consumption until at least three hours' notice has been given to the Local Authority and removal of the carcase until three hours after slaughtering, thus allowing time for inspection, are being carried out, yet, if this were all done in a Public Slaughter-house, not only would the duties of your Meat Inspector be greatly lessened, but it would ensure that the provisions laid down were observed in every instance and do away with any possible attempt to evade the law.

Number of Private Slaughter-houses.

			Registered.	Licensed.
In 1920	—	10
In January, 1925	—	11
In December, 1925	—	11

3. Other Foods.

(1) **Unsound Food and Food Inspection.**—Frequent inspection is made of foods other than fresh meat and milk, and during the year 37 lb. of tinned meat were condemned and destroyed.

(2) **Bakehouses.**—There are nine bakehouses on your register. They have been periodically inspected and are well kept.

Many improvements are needed in the handling and delivery of bread to the public to avoid contamination not only from flies and dust but from the hands of the server. It should always be conveyed in covered vans or other vehicles and to ensure further cleanliness the individual loaves should be separately wrapped in grease-proof paper before being exposed for sale in the shops or delivered at customer's houses. This hygienic custom is becoming more common in the larger towns and the public require educating to appreciate and demand it in their own interests.

4. No case of food poisoning in your area has come to my notice.

5. Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

Your Council is not a Local Authority under these Acts which are administered by the County Council.

I am indebted to the Superintendent of Police for the East Penwith Division for the following report:—

**Samples taken in the Camborne Urban District during the
year ending December 31st, 1925.**

Food.	No. of Samples.			Result of Analysis.
New Milk	...	14	...	Genuine.
Butter	...	3	...	Do.
Fresh Cream	...	1	...	Do.
Margarine	...	3	...	Do.
Sweets	...	1	...	Do.
Malt Vinegar	...	1	...	Do.
Saffron	...	1	...	Do.

**VI. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

1. Infectious Diseases Generally.

(1) **Diphtheria.**—During the period since 1920 there were 48 cases of Diphtheria notified in your area with four deaths as shown in the following Table:—

Year.	Total Cases Notified.		Deaths.	Removed to Hospital.
1921	...	27	1	3
1922	...	14	3	3
1923	...	—	—	—
1924	...	5	—	—
1925	...	2	—	—
		48	4	6

These returns compare most favourably with those for the previous five years and show a great diminution in numbers both of cases notified and the total number of deaths. The cases were scattered over the district and no particular locality was affected. In every case the diagnosis was confirmed by bacteriological examination.

Diphtheria antitoxin is supplied free by your Authority and is being used more promptly now than formerly.

(2) **Scarlet Fever.**—Since 1920 there were 25 cases of Scarlet Fever notified as follows:—

1921	...	...	9 cases.
1922	...	...	9 „
1923	...	...	1 „
1924	...	...	2 „
1925	...	...	4 „

Two cases were removed to Hospital, one in 1924 and one in 1925. There has been no death registered from this disease for many years past and the cases generally have been extremely mild in type and scattered over the district. Most of these were isolated cases and the source of infection could not be traced.

One of the cases notified last year was a definite “return” case.

(3) **Typhoid Fever.**—Since 1920 there have been 30 cases of Typhoid Fever and one of Para-Typhoid notified, and there were four deaths registered from the former disease.

Year.			Total Cases Notified.	Deaths.	Removed to Hospital.
1921	...	...	3*	—	—
1922	...	...	1	1	—
1923	...	...	23	2	4
1924	...	...	4	1	—
1925	...	...	—	—	—
			31	4	4

* Including a case of Para-Typhoid.

Apart from the cases notified in 1923 the causes of infection could not be determined. In that year the first case was notified in June and was contracted outside

your district and had no connection with the subsequent outbreak. The remaining cases in that year were notified during the months of July, August, September, and October, and in 19 instances it was found that milk was obtained from one milk vendor who was supplied with milk from two farms situated outside your area. The source of infection could not be traced to these farms and the only conclusion one could come to was that some person or persons employed at the milk vendors in question were unwittingly "carriers" of the disease, but this point could not be determined with certainty. There were no data to suggest infection from any other cause. This outbreak was the subject of enquiry by the Ministry of Health, who detailed one of their Inspectors to report on the matter.

(4) **Puerperal Fever.**—Only one case of this disease has been notified during the period from 1920 and this was in 1922 and the patient recovered.

(5) **Encephalitis Lethargica.**—One case was notified in 1921 (female, 41) and one case in 1922 (male, 67). This latter proved fatal, but the former quite recovered.

(6) **Acute Poliomyelitis.**—One case was notified in 1921 (male, 4 years), but none have occurred since that date.

(7) **Malaria.**—There were four cases notified in 1922, and one in 1924 and they were all contracted abroad. No death has occurred from this disease.

(8) **Dysentery.**—One case was notified in 1921 and the patient was a soldier who had contracted the disease abroad.

(9) **Trench Fever.**—No case has ever been notified in your area.

(10) **Pneumonia.**—Since 1920 there have been 49 cases of Pneumonia notified as follows:—

Year.			Total Cases Notified.	Deaths.
1921	...	...	3	—
1922	...	...	18	6
1923	...	...	17	8
1924	...	...	10	7
1925	...	...	1	—
			<hr/> 49	<hr/> 21
			<hr/>	<hr/>

The majority of cases were secondary to Influenza.

(11) **Bacteriological Examinations.**—In all suspicious cases of Diphtheria throat swabs are taken and examined bacteriologically. These and other examinations considered necessary in the interests of the public health are undertaken by the Clinical Research Association and the costs defrayed by your Council.

(12) **Disinfection.**—In all cases considered necessary disinfection of infected rooms is carried out by spraying with formalin and infected clothes and bedding taken to the steam disinfector at West Tolgus in the Redruth Rural area.

(13) **Immunization.**—No use has been officially made of the Schick and Dick tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever respectively or of other artificial methods of immunization against these diseases nor in my opinion have they been necessary.

(14) **Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.**—No (a) primary vaccinations or (b) re-vaccinations have been performed by me under these Regulations for the period under review,

(15) **Non-notifiable Acute Infectious Diseases.**—(a) **WHOOPIING COUGH** was epidemic in your area in March-June, 1922, and there were nine deaths registered from this disease in that year. There was also a slight epidemic in January of last year, mostly confined to the children attending the Infants' Elementary Schools at Basset Road and the Elementary School at Beacon. There were two deaths, both in infants under one year of age.

(b) **MEASLES.**—There was a severe epidemic of this disease over the whole of your area during the months of April, May and June of 1923, but fortunately only one death occurred, in an infant 18 months of age. The Infant Elementary Schools at Basset Road and Roskear were closed for periods of two weeks each.

(c) **MUMPS** and **CHICKEN POX.**—Both these diseases were very prevalent during the autumn of last year.

School intimations of disease are of great benefit in giving information as to the localities in which such diseases occur and of their extent as shown by the percentages of attendances of the scholars concerned.

(d) **INFLUENZA.**—This disease was epidemic in your area during the years 1922-4 and generally in the months of March and April. The epidemic was most severe in 1922. There were 18 deaths registered from this disease during the period mentioned, five of them being from Influenzal Pneumonia. No special enquiry was undertaken in connection with these epidemics.

(e) **JAUNDICE.**—This disease was present in an epidemic form during the months of November and December, 1921. The cases were not confined to any particular locality or water supply, but occurred all over the district and mostly in children of school age. In several instances

two or more children were attacked in the same house and sometimes after two or three days interval. The disease also occurred in a few adults and in them the symptoms were more severe in type. Neither underfeeding or insanitary surroundings had apparently anything to do with the outbreak.

(f) **ANTHRAX and RABIES.**—There have been no cases of these diseases in your area during the period under review.

(g) **EPIDEMIC HICCOUGH.**—During last year there were several cases of epidemic hiccough, but no cause for the same could be definitely determined.

(16) **Cancer.**—There were 115 deaths registered from Cancer during the periods 1921-5, and of these 72, or 62 per cent., occurred in females.

(17) **Disinfestation and Disinfection.**—There are no facilities available in your area for the cleansing and disinfestation of verminous persons and their belongings. The facilities available for the disinfection of premises and articles which have been exposed to infection have already been referred to.

2. Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1925.

Disease.		Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox	... ..	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	... ..	4	1	—
Diphtheria	... ..	2	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	... ..	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	... ..	—	—	—
Pneumonia	... ..	1	—	—
Erysipelas	... ..	5	—	—

(1) **Diphtheria.**—The two cases were notified in June in one house at Redbrooke Villas. The disease was definitely contracted outside both your area and the county. Case Rate per 1,000 living, 0.13; for England and Wales, 1.23.

(2) **Scarlet Fever.**—One case was notified in May at Troon, one in September at Croft Common, one in October at Basset Street, and one in December at Beacon, and this latter was removed to the Isolation Hospital. All the cases were extremely mild in type and the one notified in October at Basset Street was a "return" case. Case Rate per 1,000 living, 0.27; for England and Wales, 2.36.

(3) **Erysipelas.**—Of the five cases notified, four were in females and one in a male. Two were cases of Facial Erysipelas and two Erysipelas of legs. Case Rate per 1,000 living, 0.33; for England and Wales, 0.39.

(4) **Small Pox.**—No case of this disease has occurred in your district for very many years past. Case Rate per 1,000 living (England and Wales), 0.14.

(5) **Vaccination.**—During 1924, the latest period for which I can obtain complete returns, the particulars are as follows :—

Number of children born	...	...	...	228
„ „ vaccinated	...	...	...	87
„ „ died unvaccinated	...	...	...	5
„ cases postponed	...	...	...	23
„ cases exempted	...	...	...	113

The number of children successfully vaccinated was 38 per cent. of the total births, as compared with 46 per cent. for 1923, and 32 per cent. for 1922.

3. Tuberculosis.

(1) New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1
5	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
10	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	1
20	1	1	...	1	...	2	...	...
25	...	5	1	...	1	1	...	...
35	6	3	...	1	2	2	...	...
45	6	1	...	...	7	2	...	...
55	4	1	...	...	8	1	...	...
65 and upwards	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Totals ...	19	12	6	5	20	8	2	2

(a) PULMONARY.—Of the 19 cases notified in males, 15 were miners and two were employed at engineering works.

Five cases were admitted to the Tehidy Sanatorium, three males and two females.

Of the 20 deaths registered from this disease in males, 17 were in miners, two of these being gold miners, one a gold and tin miner, and the others tin miners. In nine of the cases the primary cause of death was Silicosis with Pulmonary Tuberculosis as a secondary complication. The average age at death in these miners was 51, the same as

in the previous year, and the average age at death in the other males was 55 and in the females it was 39.

One case in which death occurred had not been previously notified.

The following Table gives the Death Rates and percentage of total deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis for the past five years.

Year.	Total number of Deaths.		Rate per 1,000	Percentage of Total Deaths.
1921	...	23	1.55	11.8
1922	...	35	2.38	13.7
1923	...	30	2.05	12.6
1924	...	23	1.58	11.2
1925	...	28	1.91	14.8

(b) NON-PULMONARY.—Of the 11 cases notified during the year five were cases of Abdominal Tuberculosis, two were cases of Tuberculous Meningitis, two Tuberculous glands of neck and one each of Tuberculosis of Knee Joint and Hand. Of the deaths, three were from Meningitis and one from Peritonitis.

(2) **Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.**—No action has been taken under these Regulations during the year.

(3) **Public Health Act, 1925, section 62.**—No action has been taken under this section during the year.

VII. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

1. The notifiable and non-notifiable infectious diseases of parturient women, infants and young children have been already dealt with in this Report and there is nothing calling for comment beyond what is therein stated.

2. Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Cases.

Notified.	Treated. At home.	In hospital.	Vision. Unimpaired.	Vision. Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
2	1	1	1	1	—	—

VIII. FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

There are 122 workshops registered in your area as follows :—

Bakeries	9
Blacksmiths	7
Boot and Shoe Repairers	20
Carpenters and Cabinet Makers	20
Dressmakers	7
Milliners	7
Motor and Cycle Repairers	11
Outworkers	10
Firms employing Outworkers	12
Plumbers and Tin Workers	6
Tailors	6
Watch and Clock Repairers	7
	<hr/>
	122
	<hr/>

Sixty-two inspections were made during the year and defects were remedied in four cases. For further details consult Appendix at end of this Report.

In conclusion I wish to acknowledge the efficient assistance I have always received from the Sanitary Inspector, and the considerate attention which the Sanitary Committee have given to my suggestions and recommendations towards the improvement of the Public Health.

Unfortunately, owing to the existing circumstances in your district, the question of expenditure has to be carefully considered before carrying out many much-needed sanitary improvements.

It may seem trite and commonplace to remark that "prevention is better than cure," but this self-evident fact is not yet realised to the full as it should be, particularly as regards the Public Health. The remedying of sanitary defects which I have called your attention to in my Annual Reports year by year have this end entirely in view, and I have much pleasure in stating that many such improvements have been carried out in recent years by your Authority. I feel sure you all realise that as the Local Authority you are mainly responsible for the public health of your district and those things which will materially help in the prevention of disease, the diminution of sickness, and the improvement in the general physical welfare of the inhabitants should receive your earnest attention and definite action taken by you whenever possible.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. TELFER THOMAS,
Medical Officer of Health.

Camborne, 16th April, 1926.

APPENDIX I.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
FACTORIES ... (Including Factory Laundries)	10	—	—
WORKSHOPS ... (Including Workshop Laundries)	52	2	—
WORKPLACES ... (Other than Outworkers premises)	—	—	—
Total ...	62	2	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect to which prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts*				
Want of cleanliness ...	1	1	—	—
Want of Ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors ...	2	2	—	—
Other nuisances ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient ...	1	—	—	—
{ unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	—
{ not separate for sexes ...	1	1	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—				
Illegal occupation of underground Bakehouse (s. 101) ...	—	—	—	—
Other offences ... (Excluding offences relating to out-work and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)	—	—	—	—
Total ...	5	4	—	—

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7, and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

